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WARTIME REPORT

ORIGINALLY ISSUED July 1945 as Advance Restricted Report L5F08b

COLUMN AND PLATE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTHS

OF AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

EXTRUDED 24S-T ALUMINUM ALLOY

By George J. Heimerl and J. Albert Roy

Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory Langley Field, Va.



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NACA ARR No. L5F08b



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ADVANCE RESTRICTED REPORT

COLUMN AND PLATE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTHS
OF AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

EXTRUDED 24S-T ALUMINUM ALLOY

By George J. Heimerl and J. Albert Roy

SUMMARY

Column and plate compressive strengths of extruded 24S-T aluminum alloy were determined both within and beyond the elastic range from tests of thin-strip columns and local-instability tests of E-, Z-, and channel-section columns. These tests are part of an extensive research investigation to provide data on the structural strength of various aircraft materials. The results are presented in the form of curves and charts that are suitable for use in the design and analysis of aircraft structures.

INTRODUCTION

Column and plate members in an aircraft structure are the basic elements that fail by instability. For the design of aircraft of low weight and high structural efficiency, the strength of these elements must be known for the various aircraft materials. An extensive research program has therefore been undertaken at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory to establish the column and plate compressive strengths of a number of the alloys available for use in aircraft structures. Parts of this investigation already completed for various aluminum alloys - 24S-T sheet, 17S-T sheet, and extruded 75S-T are given in references 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

The results of tests to determine the column and plate compressive strengths of extruded 24S-T aluminum alloy are presented herein.

SYMBOLS

, L	length of column
ρ	radius of gyration
C	fixity coefficient used in Euler column formula
$\frac{\mathbf{L}}{\rho\sqrt{\mathbf{c}}}$	effective slenderness ratio of thin-strip column
$\mathbf{b_{F}}$, $\mathbf{t_{F}}$	width and thickness, respectively, of flange of H-, Z-, or channel section (see fig. 1)
b _W , t _W	width and thickness, respectively, of web of H-, Z-, or channel section (see fig. 1)
r	corner radius (see fig. 1)
k _W	nondimensional coefficient used with bw and tw in plate-buckling formula (see figs. 2 and 3 and reference 4)
Ec	modulus of elasticity in compression, taken as 10,700 ksi for 24S-T aluminum alloy
Τ	nondimensional coefficient for columns (The value of T is so determined that, when the effective modulus TEc is substituted for Ec in the equation for elastic buckling of columns, the computed critical stress agrees with the experimentally observed value. The coefficient T is equal to unity within the elastic range and decreases with increasing stress beyond the elastic range.)
η .	nondimensional coefficient for compressed plates corresponding to τ for columns
μ	Poisson's ratio, taken as 0.3 for 24S-T aluminum alloy
$\sigma_{ t cr}$	critical compressive stress
o max	average compressive stress at maximum load
o _{cy}	compressive yield stress

METHODS OF TESTING AND ANALYSIS

All tests were made in hydraulic testing machines accurate within three-fourths of 1 percent. The methods of testing and analysis developed for this research program (reference 1) may be briefly summarized as follows:

The compressive stress-strain curves for the extrusions, which identify the material for correlation with its column and plate compressive strengths, were obtained for the withgrain direction from tests of single-thickness compression specimens cut from the extruded H-section. The tests were made in a compression fixture of the Montgomery-Templin type, which provides lateral support to the specimens through closely spaced rollers.

The column strength and the associated effective modulus were obtained for the with-grain direction by the use of the method presented in reference 5, in which thinstrip columns of the material were tested with the ends clamped in fixtures that provide a high degree of end restraint. The fixtures have been improved and the method of analysis has been modified since publication of reference 5. The method now used results in a column curve representative of nearly perfect column specimens. In addition, the method now takes into account the fact that columns of the dimensions tested are actually plates with two free edges. These columns were cut from the flanges of the H-section adjacent to the junction of the web and flange.

The plate compressive strength was obtained from compression tests of H-, Z-, and channel-section columns so proportioned as to develop local instability, that is, instability of the plate elements. (See fig. 4.) Extruded H-sections having two different web widths were tested: the flange widths for each were varied by milling off portions of the flanges. The flanges of some of the Hsection extrusions were removed in such a way as to make Z- or channel sections as desired. The flange widths of the Z- and channel-section columns were varied in the same manner as the flange widths for the H-section columns. The lengths of the columns were selected in accordance with the principles of reference 6. The columns were tested with the flat ends bearing directly against the testing-machine heads. In these local-instability tests measurements were taken of the cross-sectional distortion,

and the critical stress was determined as the stress at the point near the top of the knee of the stress-distortion curve at which a marked increase in distortion first occurred with small increase in stress.

A departure from the method of analysis presented in reference 1 is that the inside face dimensions were used to define b_F and b_W in the evaluation of $\sigma_{\rm Cr}/\eta$ by means of the equations and curves of figures 2 and 3. This definition of b_F and b_W for extruded sections with small fillets was previously used in reference 3 in order that the theoretical and experimental buckling stresses would agree within the elastic range. For formed Z- and channel sections with an inside bend radius of three times the sheet thickness (references 1 and 2), b_F and b_W were defined as center-line widths with square corners assumed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Compressive Stress-Strain Curves

Compressive stress-strain curves for extruded 24S-T aluminum alloy, which were selected as typical or average curves for the column material, are given in figure 5. These curves were obtained from tests of compression specimens cut from the flanges of the extrusions adjacent to the junction of the web and flanges as shown in figure 5.

In order to study the variation of the compressive properties over the cross sections, surveys were made of the extrusion by tests of compression specimens cut from the web and flanges of the H-sections. A typical variation of the compressive yield stress $\sigma_{\rm cy}$ over the cross section is shown in figure 6. Values of $\sigma_{\rm cy}$ at the outer part of the flanges are generally higher than those for the inner part of the flanges; the lowest values of $\sigma_{\rm cy}$ were found in the web in all cases. The stress-strain curves of figure 5, representative of the material in the flange adjacent to the web, therefore usually show conservative values of $\sigma_{\rm cy}$ for the flange and unconservative values of $\sigma_{\rm cy}$ for the web.

The columns to which a particular-stress-strain curve applies are indicated in table 1 together with the value of the compressive yield stress for that stress-strain

curve. These values of $\sigma_{\rm CV}$ for the with-grain direction average about 50 ksi. The modulus of elasticity in compression was taken as 10,700 ksi, the present accepted value for 24S-T aluminum alloy.

Column and Plate Compressive Strengths

Because the compressive properties of an extruded aluminum alloy may vary considerably, the data and charts of this report should not be used for design purposes for extrusions of 24S-T aluminum alloy that have appreciably different compressive properties from those obtained in these tests, unless a suitable method is devised for adjusting test results to account for variations in material properties. The results of the column and localinstability tests for extruded 24S-T aluminum alloy are summarized herein; a discussion of the basic relationships is given in reference 1.

Column strength. - The column curve of figure 7 shows the results of the thin-strip column tests for the withgrain direction. The reduction in the effective modulus of elasticity TEc with increase in column stress is indicated by the variation of T with stress shown in figure 8.

Plate compressive strength.—The results of the local-instability tests of the H-, Z-, and channel-section columns used to determine the plate compressive strength are given in tables 2, 3, and 4, respectively. The plate-buckling curves, analogous to the column curve of figure 7, are shown in figure 9. The reduction of the effective modulus of elasticity ηE_c with increase in stress for compressed plates is indicated by the variation of η with stress, which is shown along with the curve for T in figure 8. The crossing of the T- and η -curves shown in figure 8 occurs because the H-, Z-, and channel-section columns used to obtain the η -curves apparently had an appreciable degree of imperfection, which resulted in the deviation of the η -curves from unity at a lower stress than that at which the τ -curve, representative of nearly perfect columns, diverges from unity.

The variation of the actual critical stress $\sigma_{\rm cr}$ with the theoretical critical stress $\sigma_{\rm cr}/\eta$ computed for elastic buckling by means of the formula and charts of figures 2 and 3 is shown in figure 10.

In order to illustrate the difference between the critical stress σ_{cr} and the average stress at maximum load $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$, the variation of σ_{cr} with $\sigma_{cr}/\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ is shown in figure 11. Because values of $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ may be required in strength calculations, the variation of $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ with σ_{cr}/η is shown in figure 12.

Figures 9 to 12 show that the data for H-sections described curves different from those indicated for Z- and channel sections. One of the reasons why higher values of $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ were obtained for H-sections than for Z- or channel sections for a given value of σ_{cr}/η (fig. 12) may be the fact that the high-strength material in the flanges (fig. 6) forms a higher percentage of the total cross-sectional area for the H-section than for the Z- or channel section. For the H-section, $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ is increased over the value for the Z- or channel section over the entire stress range covered in these tests (fig. 12); σ_{cr} for the H-section, however, is increased only for stresses beyond the elastic range (fig. 10).

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National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
Langley Field, Va.

- 1. Lundquist, Eugene E., Schuette, Evan H., Heimerl, George J., and Roy, J. Albert: Column and Plate Compressive Strengths of Aircraft Structural Materials. 24S-T Aluminum-Alloy Sheet.

 NACA ARR No. L5F01, 1945.
- 2. Heimerl, George J., and Roy, J. Albert: Column and Plate Compressive Strengths of Aircraft Structural Materials. 17S-T Aluminum-Alloy Sheet. NACA ARR No. L5F08, 1945.
- 3. Heimerl, George J., and Roy, J. Albert: Column and Plate Compressive Strengths of Aircraft Structural Materials. Extruded 75S-T Aluminum Alloy. NACA ARR No. L5F08a, 1945.
- 4. Kroll, W. D., Fisher, Gordon P., and Heimerl, George J.: Charts for Calculation of the Critical Stress for Local Instability of Columns with I-, Z-, Channel, and Rectangular-Tube Section. NACA ARR No. 3KO4, 1943.
- 5. Lundquist, Eugene E., Rossman, Carl A., and Houbolt, John C.: A Method for Determining the Column Curve from Tests of Columns with Equal Restraints against Rotation on the Ends. NACA TN No. 903, 1943.
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I .	which stress-strain rves apply	Stress- strain	Compressive yield stress, σ_{cy}
Туре	Designation (tables 2 to 4)	curve (fig. 5)	(ks1)
Thin strip	All	A	50.9
н	5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 9a, 9b	В	52.1
H	2b, 3a	С	46.1
H	la, 15, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4b	D	47.0
H	8ъ	E	52.5
Z	8	В	52.1
Z	3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b	С	46.1
Z	1, 2a, 2b, 2c	D	47.0
Z	9a, 9b, 10a, 10b, 10c	E	52.5
Z	6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c	F	51.6
Channel	3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 5a, 5b, 5c	Ċ	46.1
Channel	la, 1b, 2a, 2b	D	47.0
Channel	8a, 8b, 8c, 9a, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 10c	E	52.5
Channel	6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b,	F	51.6

TABLE 2.- DIMENSIONS OF COLUMNS AND TEST RESULTS

FOR EXTRUDED 245-T M-SECTIONS

Column	t _w	t _F	b _W	b _F (in.)	L (in.)	L bw	t _W	b _₩ t _₩	p₩.	k _w (fig. 2)	$\frac{b_{W}}{t_{W}}\sqrt{\frac{12(1-\mu^{2})}{k_{W}}}$	σ _{cr} η (ksi) (a)	σ _{cr} (ksi)	可 _{max} (ksi)	σ _{cr} σ̄ _{max}
1a 1bc 2abc 2abc 2abc 33bc 4ab 55666 cabc 28b 99b	0.123 .124 .124 .124 .124 .124 .124 .124 .124	0.128 .128 .128 .129 .129 .128 .129 .128 .129 .120 .120 .120 .120 .119 .119 .119 .119 .120 .120	1.61 1.62 1.661 1.661 1.661 1.661 1.662 2.7765 2.7755 2.774 2.774 2.774	0.999 9999 1.099 1.177 1.134 1.098 1.3667 1.6677 1.995 1.1698 1.1	7.91 7.91 7.991 7.76.66655 9.66655 9.66655 11.5339998 11.555.665 11.5339998 11.555.88 11.555.88	4.88884413900040 1671213135135566666 4445555666666666666666666666666	0.96555 .96655 .96662.9663 .96663 .966653 .96676557 .96764344 .97618 .955557 .96765574	13.09 13.09 13.09 13.99 12.99	•399 •395 •500 •504 •505 •607	2.001 1.669 1.446 1.446 1.477 1.17 2.099 1.550 2.01 1.550 2.02	554222333389 4444455556677	24078786663 84184334323666 1111119999888666 4576644453322222	811147091877 701726634611 555555555546 772.1.2.332560.11	66368718435 371652423688 7775341.8435 371652423688	0.969 969 969 969 980 980 980 980 980 980 980 980 980 98

$$\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W n^2 E_c t_W^2}{12(1-\mu^2)b_W^2}, \text{ where } E_c = 10,700 \text{ ksi and } \mu = 0.3.$$

TABLE 3.- DIMENSIONS OF COLUMNS AND TEST RESULTS
FOR EXTRUDED 24S-T Z-SECTIONS

Column	t _W	t _F	b W (in.)	b _F (in.)	L (in.)	E bw	tw t _F	bw tw	p.W	k _W (fig. 3)	$\frac{b_{\overline{W}}}{t_{\overline{W}}}\sqrt{\frac{12(1-\mu^2)}{k_{\overline{W}}}}$	σ _{cr} η (ksi) (a)	σ _{cr}	σ _{max} (ksi)	σ _{cr} σ _{max}
1 2a 2b 2c 3 4a 4b 4c 5b	0.124 .123 .123 .126 .126 .124 .125 .125	0.128 .128 .128 .131 .130 .129 .129	1.62 1.62 1.62 1.62 1.62 1.62 1.62 1.62	0.98 1.00 1.00 1.01 1.18 1.18 1.17 1.34	6.11 6.47 6.46 76.37 6.99 6.99 7.52	3.77 3.99 3.99 43.929 44.44 44.44	0.964 .960 .959 .965 .966 .963 .9773 .964	13.09 13.15 13.16 13.17 12.83 12.86 13.03 12.92 12.92	.615 .623 .728 .728 .728 .722 .839	2.31 2.24 2.24 2.20 1.92 1.68 1.67 1.33	28.4 29.0 29.1 29.3 30.6 32.8 33.3 33.0 37.0	130.4 125.3 125.1 122.7 112.8 97.6 95.1 97.2 77.0 75.9	55.0 55.0 55.0 55.0 55.0 50.0	58.1 57.0 56.4 53.9 51.9 53.6 47.9	0.950 .965 .965 .958 .965 .965 .951 .959 .951
6a 6b 6c 7a 7b 7c 8 9a 9b 10a 10b	.114 .115 .115 .114 .114 .116 .116 .116 .116	.121 .118 .121 .121 .118 .121 .119 .120 .119 .123 .123	2.75 2.75 2.75 2.75 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76	1.138 1.438 1.438 1.696 1.22.2	116.48	35344445555666 353744445555666	9488628552369 •994967552369 •99999999999999999999999999999999999	24.04 24.01 23.90 24.10 23.99 24.21 23.83 23.81 23.57 23.69	.396 .400 .405 .502 .509 .710 .710 .818 .815	3533323211.338 3533323211.338	4005.27058257 4453995.666 453956666	66.190.146.685199.7 799.4333	4556.258620035 444443284322	47.2 47.2 47.2 43.3 43.3 43.3 55.0 8 48.1 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	.968 .964 .981 .977 .9784 .806 .680 .680

$$\frac{\sigma_{\rm cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W n^2 E_c t_W^2}{12(1-\mu^2) b_W^2}, \text{ where } E_c = 10,700 \text{ ksi and } \mu = 0.3.$$

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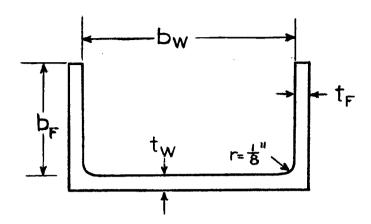
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TABLE 4.- DIMENSIONS OF COLUMNS AND TEST RESULTS
FOR EXTRUDED 24s-T CHANNEL SECTIONS

Column	t W (in.)	t _F	b _W	b _F	L (in.)	L b _W	t _W t _F	bw tw	p ^M	k _W (fig. 3)	$\frac{b_{\mathbf{W}}}{t_{\mathbf{W}}}\sqrt{\frac{12(1-\mu^2)}{k_{\mathbf{W}}}}$	$\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\eta}$ (ksi) (a)	σ _{cr} (k s 1)	Gmax (ksi)	σ _{cr} σ̄ _{max}
1a 1b 2a 2b 35c 44c 44c 45c 55c	0.123 .124 .123 .125 .125 .125 .124 .125 .125 .125 .125 .125 .125 .125	0.129 .128 .128 .129 .129 .129 .129 .130 .130 .129 .129 .129	1.61 1.61 1.63 1.63 1.61 1.60 1.61 1.62 1.61 1.62 1.62	0 .998 .999 .0099 1.0099 1.1111 1.333	66.5545 66.5545 66.5545 66.666 66.6667 77.666667 77.77	778456 7798456 77158 778456 77158 77	0.960 .967 .964 .959 .9766 .966 .9662 .965 .965 .965 .965 .965	13.04 12.99 13.05 13.03 12.91 12.93 12.93 12.95 12.83 13.00 12.95 12.95 12.90 12.92	0.613 .606 .613 .663 .6637 .6777 .7327 .7337 .7333 .8327 .8344	2.25 2.27 2.25 2.25 2.20 1.90 1.90 1.667 1.667 1.665 1.334 1.29	28.7 28.7 28.7 29.1 31.0 31.0 31.0 33.1 33.3 33.7 37.1 4	128.0 129.3 127.8 127.8 127.8 109.0 110.2 109.9 96.5 98.1 95.7 77.0 76.7 75.4	0812676748999011676 55555555555445556446	8556565696981968474 5766644444112228888 577666444444112228888	0.9353 -9953 -9957 -9958
6a 6b 6c 7a 7b 7c 8a 8b 8c 9a 9c 10a 10b	.115 .114 .114 .115 .125 .125 .125 .125 .126 .127	.119 .129 .120 .119 .119 .120 .120 .120 .121 .121 .121	22222222222222222222222222222222222222	1.11 1.14 1.40 1.688 1.998 1.997 1.20 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	10.00 10.00 10.00 10.03 12.06 15.44 15.44 16.30 16.80 17.85 17.80	454699091311575 66663336556999444 5555555666	964 959 959 959 9566 9572 1.0012 1.0014 1.0014 1.0014 1.0014 1.0014	23.87 23.99 24.04 23.85 24.09 22.01 22.04 21.97 22.01 21.97 22.19 21.72 21.90	.400 .405 .404 .507 .509 .609 .713 .714 .808 .812	88 88 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	40.0.1.1.1.3.4.3.9.5.4.0.4.2 55.5.5.5.5.6.6.6	870887558570826 65469944444333335665	28 5.144 5.6 9.2 1.6 0.1 5 46 63 5.3 5.7 7.7 50 0.4 4 4 5 7 7 7 7 5 3 5 3 2 2 2 3	842801979574036 477344488855564355 4444433333333333	987 9885 9886 9884 9984 9974 8844 9974 8844 1766 1766

 $[\]frac{\sigma_{\rm cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W \eta^2 E_c t_W^2}{12(1-\mu^2) b_W^2}, \text{ where } E_c = 10,700 \text{ ksi and } \mu = 0.3.$

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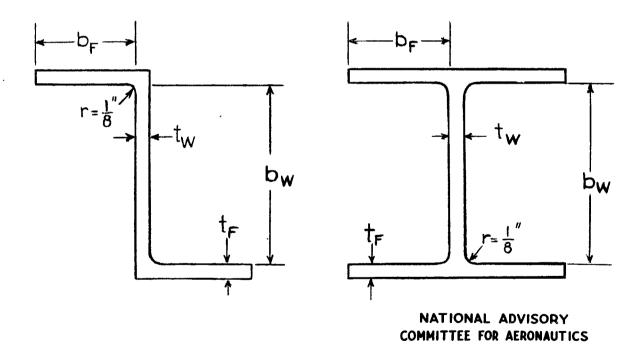


Figure 1. - Cross sections of H-, Z-, and channelsection columns.

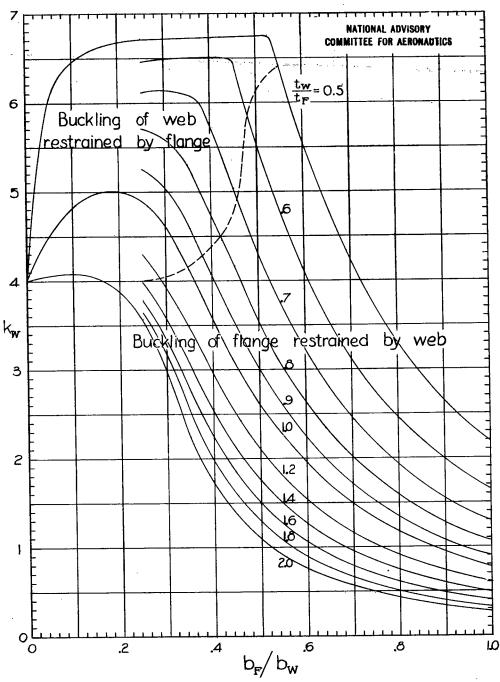


Figure 2.- Values of k_W for H-section columns. (From reference 4.) $\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W \pi^2 E_c t_W^2}{12(I-\mu^2) b_W^2}$

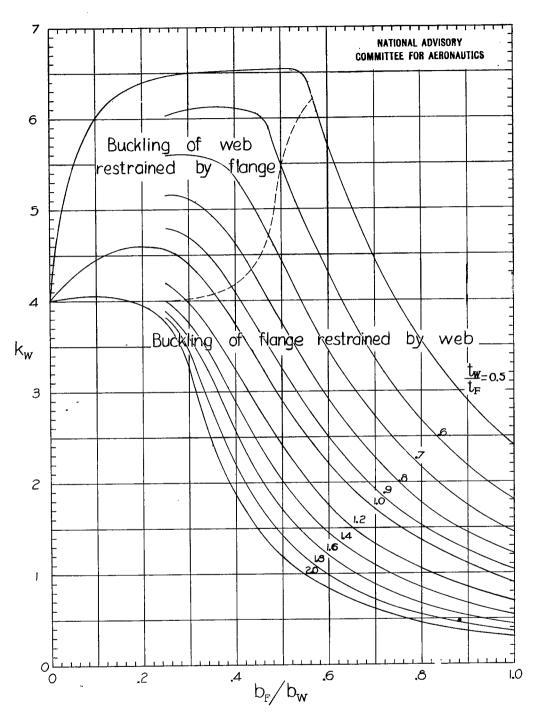


Figure 3. - Values of k_W for Z- and channel-section columns. (From reference 4.) $\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W \pi^2 E_c t_W^2}{12 \left(I - \mu^2 \right) b_W^2}$

$$\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\eta} = \frac{k_W \pi^2 L_c t_W^2}{12(1-\mu^2) b_W^2}$$

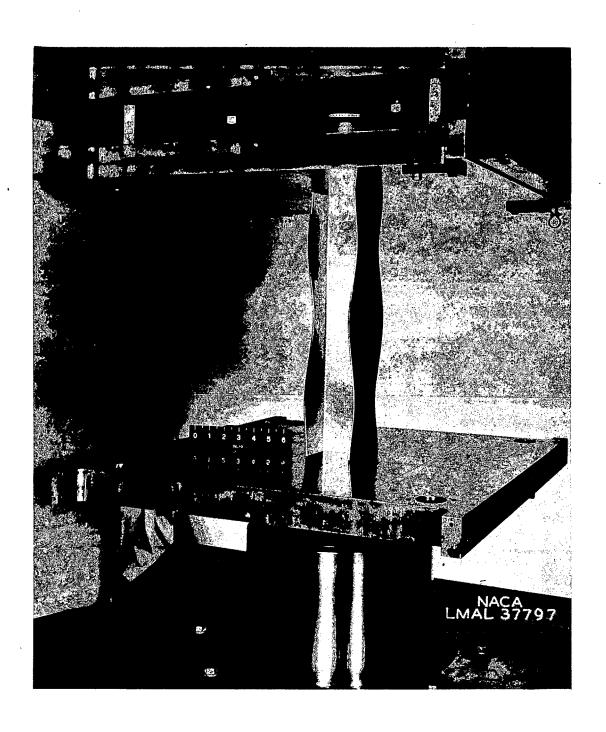


Figure 4.- Local instability of an H-section column.

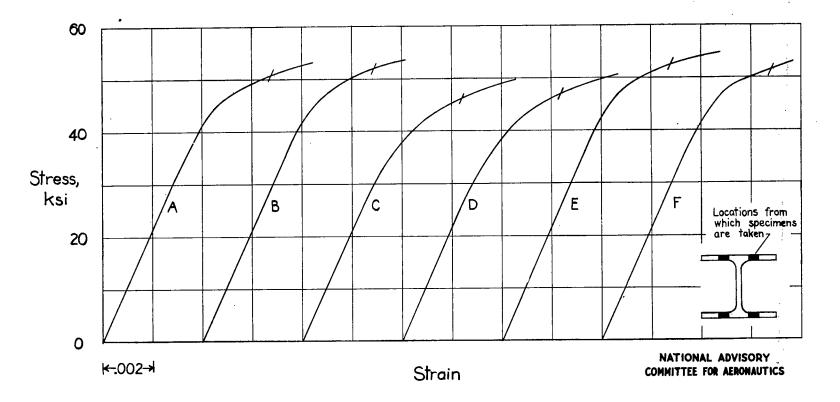
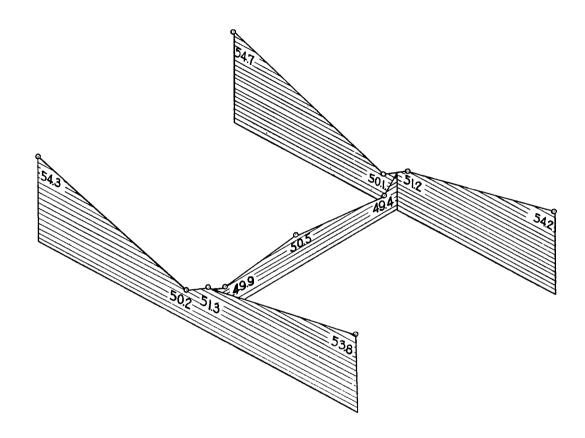


Figure 5.- Compressive stress-strain curves for extruded 24 S-T aluminum alloy. (Curves A, B, C, etc., are identified in table 1.)



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Figure 6. - Variation of the compressive yield stress over the cross section of an extruded H-section of 24S-T aluminum alloy. (Values in ksi.)

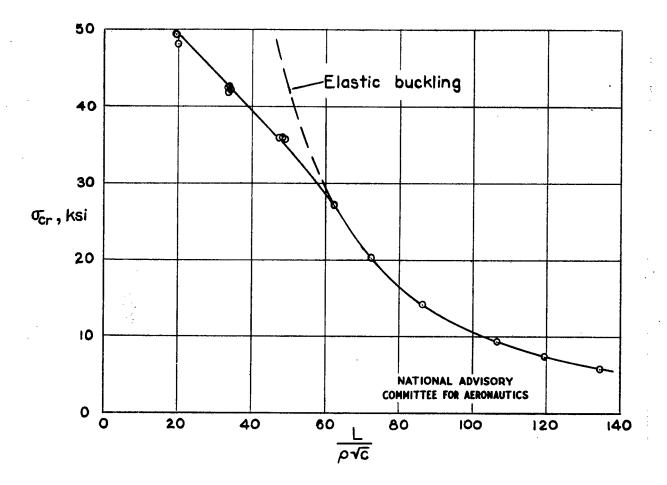


Figure 7. - Column curve for extruded 245-T aluminum alloy. $\sigma_{cy} = 50$ ksi.

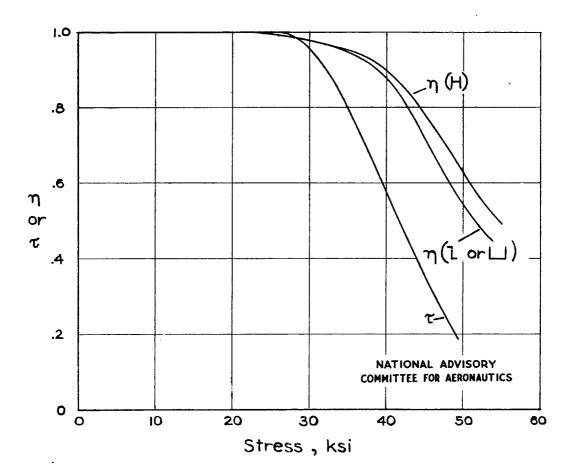


Figure 8. – Variation of τ and η with stress for extruded 245 – T aluminum alloy. σ_{cy} = 50 ksi.

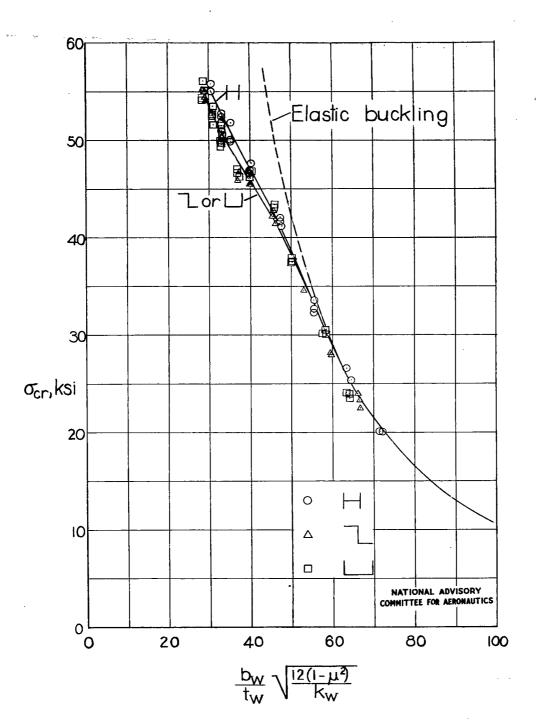


Figure 9. - Plate-buckling curves for extruded 24 S-T aluminum alloy obtained from tests of H-, Z-, and channel-section columns. σ_{cy} = 50 ksi.

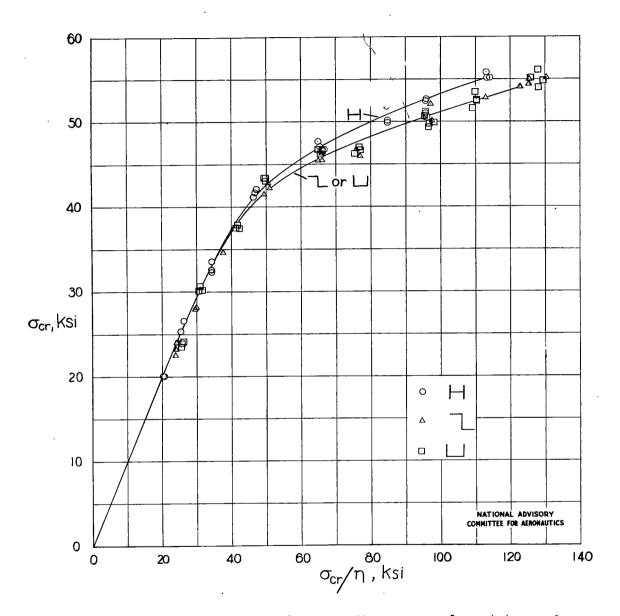


Figure 10.-Variation of σ_{cr} with σ_{cr}/η for plates of extruded 24S-T aluminum alloy obtained from tests of H-, Z-, and channel-section columns. σ_{cy} = 50 ksi.

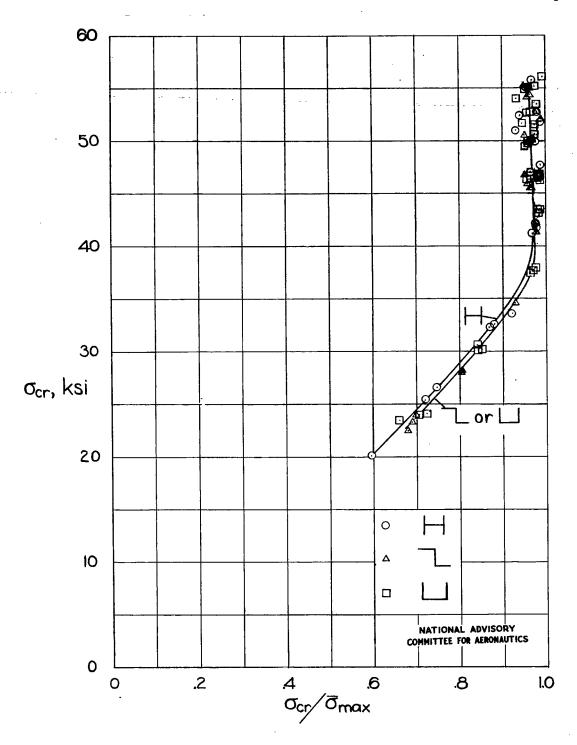


Figure 11. - Variation of σ_{cr} with $\sigma_{cr}/\bar{\sigma}_{max}$ for extruded 24 S-T aluminum - alloy H-, Z-, and channel-section columns. σ_{cy} = 50 ksi.

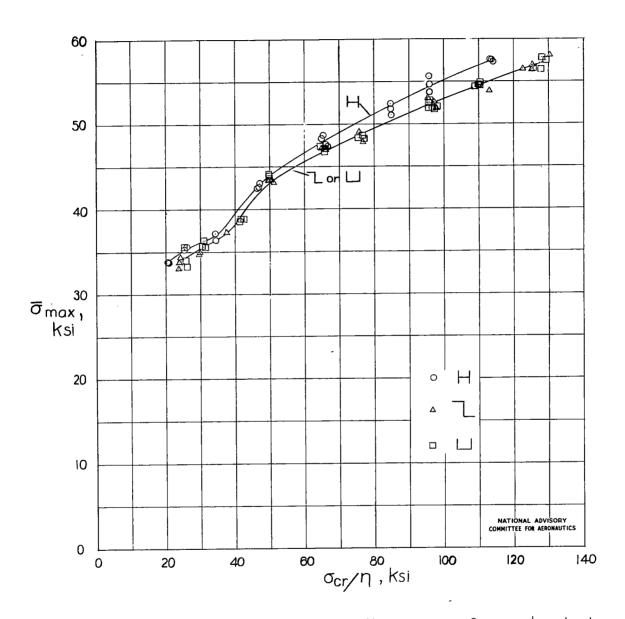


Figure 12.- Variation of $\overline{\sigma}_{max}$ with σ_{cr}/η for extruded 24 S-T aluminum - alloy H-, Z-, and channel - section columns. $\sigma_{cy}=50$ ksi.

3 1176 01364 8655